

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14, and 16-20 are pending, including independent claims 1, 2, 5, 14, and 17-19. Claims 2-4 are allowed. However, the remaining claims are rejected as anticipated by or obvious over the same prior art as in the previous Office Action.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner provides a response to Applicant's previous arguments that clarifies the rejections and, for at least some independent claims, suggests amendments to overcome the rejections.

Claims 1, 5-10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Van Kleeck and Nakano. Claims 1 and 5 recite, *inter alia*, that speech guidance is stopped if it would interfere with an audio or image output of an operated device. The Examiner concedes this feature is not disclosed in Val Kleeck but asserts that it is disclosed in Nakano. In response to Applicant's previous arguments, the Examiner has cited two passages of Nakano that the Examiner states show this feature (col. 2, ll. 9-13 [sic, 16-19] and 4-6 [sic, 10-12]). However, the cited passages only describe that a user can decide to stop the operation of a program that is currently running on the computer, not that speech guidance is automatically terminated by the system on the basis of specific conditions. Nevertheless, claims 1 and 5 are amended to clarify that the system itself (not the user) detects the audio or image output of an operated device and stops speech guidance in response thereto. In particular, claim 1 recites a method for a speech input guidance device that includes several acts performed by the device, and has been amended to further recite the act of "detecting the occurrence of an audio or image output of an operated device." Claim 5 already is an apparatus claim but has been amended to expressly recite "a detecting unit for detecting the occurrence of an audio or image output of an operated device." Applicant submits that claims 1 and 5 (and their dependent claims) are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 19 recites, *inter alia*, that the speech input executing commands provided to the user are prioritized according to frequency of use, and Applicant's previous argument stated that the commands are prioritized "relative to one another." The Examiner maintained the rejection, noting that the claim does not contain the quoted language. The claim has now been amended

to add this language explicitly. Thus, commands provided to the user may be prioritized relative to one another according to frequency of use, e.g., by sorting them in order of frequency of usage, or by displaying commands with a high usage frequency in a color different from others or in a different size (Application, e.g., at p. 33, line 26 to p. 34, line 11). Applicant submits that the cited references do not disclose, *inter alia*, that commands provided to the user are prioritized relative to one another according to frequency of use.

Claim 14 and its dependent claim 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Van Kleeck. Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, that when a user enters only one of an operation object and the content of an operation, the device provides a speech input executing command corresponding to the other. The Examiner interprets this claim feature in the alternative, however, and asserts that the cited prior art teaches one of the two possibilities and renders the claim unpatentable. The claim has been amended to clarify that the feature operates for both possibilities (when only an operation object is specified and when only the content of an operation is specified). Thus, if a user voices only an operation object, such as “mail” for email, the system can display the speech operations available for this operation object. Conversely, if the user voices only an operation, such as “up”, that is applicable to multiple operation objects (e.g., the volume on an audio device, or the temperature), the system can display the operation objects available for this operation. Van Kleeck does not disclose this feature, and Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

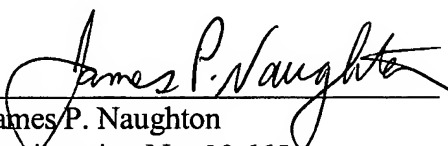
Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Van Kleeck and Cohen. Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, that the order of the provided commands is changed according to the counts of outputs or the dates of outputs. Support for this feature is found, for example, in the application at p. 9, lines 15-20; p. 33, lines 12-25; and p. 41, lines 7-14. Thus, a display of a plurality of speech input executing commands may be sorted so that, e.g., commands used less frequently or used less recently are prioritized for display. Applicant submits that the Examiner’s explanation of the rejection reads too much into the cited reference. The cited passage of Cohen (col. 6, ll. 25-32) describes that certain intermediate prompts can be skipped by an experienced user. In other words, such intermediate prompts can be effectively deleted. Therefore, the order of the prompts is not changed relative to one another; it’s simply that an

intermediate prompt can be skipped entirely. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended claim 17 for clarification and requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Van Kleeck, Nakano, and Cohen. Claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, that the form of the guidance output of a command is different from that of other commands, or the command is stopped, if the count for the command exceeds a predetermined number. The Examiner interprets the claim in the alternative and asserts that the prior art teaches one of the possibilities (stopping output of the command). Applicant has amended the claim to delete the alternative of stopping the command and submits that the cited references do not disclose providing guidance output of a command in a form different from that of other commands if the count for the command exceeds a predetermined number.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and expedited allowance of this application. If the Examiner believes the application still is not in condition for allowance, she is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at 312-321-4723 to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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